

specialized chapter contributed by Richard Silberstein reviews intriguing data suggesting that Parkinson's disease, Tourette syndrome and schizophrenia may be pathologically hypo-coupled or hypercoupled states that result from faulty control parameters. Local and global neural processes may be distinguished by EEG/MEG studies (perhaps by means of different resonance behavior), so these ideas are subject to experimental test. The chapter contributed by Lester Ingber outlines a statistical mechanics of neocortical interactions at multiple scales that complements macroscopic theories.

The main limitation of global MEG studies is the cost of multichannel systems (perhaps a factor of 30 higher than for similar EEG systems). However, many such MEG studies will likely be carried out by physicists in the future. Chapter 1 of my book contains several references to review articles (including one by Sam Williamson) on MEG.

A major pitfall for physicists and engineers doing brain science is that of becoming so enamored of either hardware or mathematics that they forget brain science. At the other extreme, cognitive or medical scientists may ignore physical principles or theoretical tools in a premature rush to enlightenment. My book may help scientists from such disparate backgrounds to strike a proper brain balance.

PAUL L. NUNEZ
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New Orleans, Louisiana

WILLIAMSON REPLIES: Paul Nunez's description of magnetoencephalography (MEG) is mostly correct but not particularly revealing. Indeed, the application of superconducting detectors to identify active locations in the human brain has been so successful that the practice is becoming known as magnetic source imaging (MSI). He would be delighted to see the activity at professional meetings that focus on MSI, and to appreciate how many physicists are really dealing with the brain, not just instruments. Several research groups are now participating creatively in devising and applying new experimental paradigms.

I agree with the last paragraph of Nunez's letter. Accordingly, I suggest he read "Dynamical Organization of the Human Visual System Revealed by Lifetimes of Activation Traces,"¹ in which my colleagues and I present the first evidence for a hierarchy of processing memories in the human visual system. Indeed, it is helpful to think of the memory strength as an order parameter. The lifetimes for

these memories range from 200 ms to 30 s. Widespread activity (which Nunez should appreciate) has been characterized by an array of 122 superconducting sensors.

Reference

1. M. A. Uusitalo, S. J. Williamson, M. T. Seppä, *Neurosci. Lett.* **213**, 149 (1996).
- SAMUEL J. WILLIAMSON**
New York University
New York, New York

Physicist Writing His Memoirs Seeks Contact with Former Students

I am working on an autobiography and want to build a more complete list of students I have guided on junior papers, senior theses and PhD dissertations, as well as of postdoctoral researchers who have joined my endeavors over the years. Unfortunately, the lists and the memory that I have now at age 85 contain black holes from which no information can escape.

If you are one of the students or postdocs I have worked with (or know someone who has been but might not read this letter), please let me hear from you.

I'd like to get from you a list of all of your degrees (not just the one you may have earned with me), the year(s) we worked together, your present address and occupation and how best to reach you (e-mail or otherwise).

Very little of this information will actually be used in the autobiography, but it will help me bring great days, great discussions and great friends back to life.

My friend Ken Ford has kindly volunteered to receive and collate this information. He can be reached by e-mail at kwford@aol.com (preferably), by fax at 215-844-1399 or by regular mail at 729 Westview Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

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Corrections

May, page 35—In the photograph of the 1933 Solvay Conference, the person sitting to the right of Marie Curie is Paul Langevin and the person sitting to the right of Langevin is Owen Richardson.

October, page 68—The correct prices for *Julian Schwinger: The Physicist, the Teacher and the Man*, Y. Jack Ng, ed., are \$38 for the hardcover edition and \$16 for the paperback edition. ■

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Act of 12 August 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, USC)

1. Title of publication: PHYSICS TODAY
2. Publication no.: 0031-9228
3. Date of Filing: 1 October 1996
4. Frequency of issue: Monthly
5. No. of issues published annually: 12
6. Annual subscription price: \$155.00
7. Location of known office of publication: 500 Sunnyside Blvd., Woodbury, NY 11797-2999
8. Location of the headquarters or general business offices of the publisher: One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740-3843
9. Names and addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor:
Publisher: Charles Harris, American Institute of Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740-3843
Editor: Stephen G. Benka, American Institute of Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740-3843
Managing Editor: None
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11. Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (mortgagee), 201 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003
12. The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes: Has not changed during preceding 12 months
13. Publication name: PHYSICS TODAY
14. Issue date for circulation data below: June
15. Extent and nature of circulation:
A. Total number of copies (net press run)
Average* 125 609 June** 126 817
B. Paid and/or requested circulation
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales
Average* none June** none
2. Paid or requested mail subscriptions
Average* 119 485 June** 116 381
C. Total paid and/or requested circulation (sum of B1 and B2)
Average* 119 485 June** 116 381
D. Free distribution (samples, complimentary and other free)
Average* 1 695 June** 5 580
E. Free distribution outside the mail (carriers or other means)
Average* none June** none
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H. Copies not distributed
1. Office use, leftovers and spoiled
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I. Total (sum of G, H1 and H2—should equal net press run shown in A)
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Percent paid and/or requested circulation

(C/G × 100)

Average* 98.60% June** 95.42%

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